

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
USDOC, CIA

-----109082 161829Z /45

R 161740Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, NI

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY LOSS OF BERTH 9 BY AWAF

1. FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT TO B.M. TUKUR, GENERAL MANAGER
NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY (NPA) BY CUNNINGHAM, OF AMERICAN
WEST AFRICAN FREIGHT CONFERENCE: QUOTE

AM ADVISED THAT THE NPA WILL SHORTLY INSTITUTE A RENO-
VATION AND UPGRADING PROGRAM AT THE APAPA PIERS BEGINNING
WITH PIER 6 AND THEN PROCEEDING TO PIER 9 STOP AM FURTHER
ADVISED THAT FOR THE PERIOD OF RENOVATION, I.E., 4 WEEKS
OR LONGER, IT IS NOT CONTEMPLATED THAT AN ALTERNATIVE
PIER WILL BE ASSIGNED FOR USE BY THE PARTY WHOSE PIER
IS CLOSED FOR REPAIRS. WE APPRECIATE THAT THIS POLICY
MAY BE FEASIBLE INSOFAR AS UKWAL AND COWAC ARE CONCERNED
SINCE THESE CONFERENCES ARE ASSIGNED MORE THAN ONE PIER
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STOP HOWEVER, THE LOSS OF USE OF ITS ONLY PIER BY THIS
CONFERENCE WITHOUT BEING ASSIGNED A SECOND PIER FOR USE
DURING THE PERIOD OF RENOVATION OF ITS PIER WOULD
GRIEVOUSLY HARM THE NIGERIAN/US TRADE AND SERIOUSLY IMPAIR
THE REVENUE OF OUR MEMBER LINES SERVING NIGERIA AND OUR
TOTAL WEST AFRICAN SERVICE STOP ACCORDINGLY, MOST EARNESTLY
REQUEST THAT THIS CONFERENCE BE ASSIGNED A SECOND PIER AT

APAPA OR TCI FOR TEMPORARY USE WHILE ITS PIER (NO. 9-APAPA)

IS BEING RENOVATED. GRATEFUL YOUR SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION THIS REQUEST AND PROMPT RELY STOP KIND REGARDS.

UNQUOTE.

2. IN LETTER TO DEPARTMENT WHICH TRANSMITS COPY OF AWAF C TELEGRAM TO NPA, CUNNINGHAM SEEKS SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT/EMBASSY IN OBTAINING FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF AWAF C'S POTENTIAL PROBLEM. DEPARTMENT FULLY SUPPORTS AWAF C REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AND URGES EMBASSY TO MAKE APPROPRIATE DEMARCHE TO NPA ALONG LINES OF AWAF C'S TELEGRAM TO TUKUR. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT A DISRUPTION OF SERVICE FOR FOUR OR MORE WEEKS OF BOTH DELTA AND FARRELL LINES SERVICE TO LAGOS WILL BE DISASTROUS TO US TRADE, AT A TIME WHEN THE US IS EXPERIENCING A SEVERE TRADE DEFICIT WITH NIGERIA (OVER \$5 BILLION IN 1977), AND IS VIEWED MOST SERIOUSLY BY USG.

3. IF APPROACH TO NPA IS UNSUCCESSFUL EMBASSY SHOULD CONSIDER ESCALATING DEMARCHE TO PERMSEC OF TRANSPORT OR OTHER APPROPRIATELY SENIOR FMG OFFICIAL. EMBASSY SHOULD REPORT RESULTS TO DEPARTMENT ASAP. CHRISTOPHER

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